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Poland: Planners are grappling with long-run economic problems. (Page 3)

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Poland: The problems encountered in preparing Poland's economic plans for 1970 and 1971-75 came up at a meeting of economic planners and managers held earlier this week.

Premier Jozef Cyrankiewicz reported that industrial enterprises, which were recently given a greater voice in formulating plan objectives, had failed to take into account the need for making full use of existing production capacity. He attributed the failure to "the old mentality and habits" of enterprise managers and charged that it is contrary to the party objective of streamlining the economy.

Premier Cyrankiewicz's criticism underscores the regime's concern over the current managerial practice of meeting production quotas by hiring excess labor and by constructing new plants, rather than by increasing the productivity of available resources. During the 1966-68 period almost one million new workers were added to the labor force outside of private agriculture, approximately 200,000 more than planned. This has held productivity gains far below official expectations. The wages fund expanded more rapidly than desired, thus placing increased stress on market supplies.

A large amount of industrial construction has led to severe shortages of building supplies--especially cement and structural steel--further extending an already protracted building cycle and complicating efforts to relieve the country's acute housing shortage.

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